

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Note: The following is a joint news release issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior (Everglades National Park).

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ARMY (CIVIL WORKS) APPROVES PLAN FOR TAMIAMI TRAIL MODIFICATIONS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – After careful review, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works approved a plan Wednesday that will restore natural water flows in Everglades National Park. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley, Jr., signed the "record of decision" on the Tamiami Trail Modifications project, one of four components of the Modified Water Deliveries project authorized by Congress to increase water flows and restore the northeastern sections of Everglades National Park. Signing of the record of decision is the final action in the process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

"The Everglades continues to be a priority for me and for this administration. We will continue to move the restoration efforts forward," said Woodley.

The purpose of the Tamiami Trail Modifications feature is to improve water flow from Water Conservation Area 3B and the L-29 Canal south to the Northeast Shark River Slough within Everglades National Park.

After public and agency review of the final Revised General Reevaluation Report, alternative 14 - the two mile bridge west and one mile bridge east – was chosen as the recommended plan for the project.

"This decision allows us to move forward to complete one of the cornerstone projects required to restore America's Everglades. This plan will optimize water flow under the Tamiami Trail and enhance environmental and economic benefits, while minimizing impacts on the community during construction," said Col. Bob Carpenter, Commander of the Corps' Jacksonville District.

"Moving this plan for Tamiami Trail forward is the most critical action the Army and the Department of Interior can take at this time to further restoration of Everglades National Park and the greater Everglades ecosystem," said Dan Kimball, superintendent of Everglades National Park.

A copy of the Record of Decision and the Revised General Reevaluation Report are available on the Corps' website at:

http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/dp/mwdenp-c111/tamiamiTrail/index.htm

For more information contact the Jacksonville District's Corporate Communication Office at 904-334-8954.